

with white. Primaries black, with a broad basal white patch. Secondaries on their outer webs, and so much of their inner webs as is exposed, bronzy, with a narrow basal white patch, the remaining portion being dull black; tertiaries bronzy, narrowly edged with blackish. Primary greater coverts white; lesser coverts dusky; secondary and tertiary coverts bronzy, suffused with dusky. Wing-linings and axillaries white, the axillaries freckled on their inner webs with greyish; rest of under surface of wing, where not white, black, with a slight gloss. Legs, feet, and claws yellow, claws tinged with dusky. Bill orange-yellow, greenish blue at base. Irides pearly grey. Length (from dried skin) about 8·5 inches, wing 4·7, tarsus 1·4, bill from gape 1·2.

The specimen was obtained at Paulu Tawer, on the Pahang river, 6th August, 1891. The crest is not very full; but, as most of the feathers are only partially grown, it is impossible to say what the crest would be like in a fully-plumaged bird.

IX.—*On the Birds of Madagascar, and their Connection with Native Folk-lore, Proverbs, and Superstitions.* By the Rev. JAMES SIBREE, Jr., F.R.G.S.*—Part IV.

[Continued from 'The Ibis,' 1891, p. 565.]

VI.—THE WADING BIRDS.

THE Order of the Grallæ, or Wading Birds, with its six or seven families and numerous subdivisions, is represented in Madagascar by about thirty species of birds belonging to the Jacanas, Rails, Water-hens, Coots, Curlews, Sandpipers, Snipes, Plovers, and Turnstones, as well as by a family (Mesitidæ) which is quite peculiar to the island.

As might be expected, many of these water-loving birds are very numerous in this country, as well as those of the two following Orders, the Icerons and the Wild-fowl; for

* Reprinted from the 'Antananarivo Annual,' 1891, with additions and corrections by the Author.

although a large portion of Madagascar is, geologically speaking, very ancient land, and is therefore rather deficient in lakes, as compared with more recently formed countries, its plentiful marshes, its numerous rivers, and its large extent of sea-coast, with the numberless bays and inlets of the north-western portion, provide abundant nutriment and suitable feeding-grounds for this large class of birds.

The first family, that of the Jacanas, is represented here by two species, the first of which, the White-necked Jacana, appears to be peculiar to Madagascar and the neighbouring islands. With its extremely long toes it walks easily upon the large leaves of aquatic plants, searching for the water-insects which form its food. It dives with great ease, and is therefore very difficult to shoot; in its habits and flight it resembles the European Water-hen. It is a somewhat rare bird.

The other species of this family, the African Jacana, is identical with that found all over Southern Africa from the tropics to the Cape: it frequents the same localities as the White-necked species, being often found together with its cousin. The native names of this bird, as well as one of those by which the other Jacana is known, are long and rather obscure. Possibly they contain the root *tety*, "passed through," "walked on," and, if so, would then refer to the habits of these birds in stepping from leaf to leaf of the water-plants. The White-necked Jacana is also called *Fôrontsàranionny*, "Handsome-bird-of-the-river," and *Tolôhoràno*, "Water-Cuckoo."

The family of the Rails comprises ten birds, of which the *Kallus gularis* has been best observed. According to M. Pollen's account, this Rail is regarded with great respect by the north-western Sâkalâva, as they believe it brings them rain in very dry weather, so they will not kill it. It frequents the marshy parts of forests, and in habits resembles the European species. It is very shy, retiring into the bushes on the least alarm, and its loud whistling and tremulous cry is chiefly heard towards evening. These birds are said to be so careful of their eggs and young that, when sitting, they may easily

be taken by the hand from the nest : so also, when they are surprised in places where there is no cover, they prefer to be captured rather than to resort to flight. M. Pollen says, "I once saw a hen bird who would not quit the space near her nest, but kept walking around it, ruffling her feathers and dragging her wings on the ground, in the same way as our domestic hen does when defending her young." This Rail's nest is made of rushes ; it is about 6 inches in diameter, and is fixed on water-plants about 3 feet above the ground. The eggs are three in number, yellowish white in colour, blotched with dark brown, and as large as those of a Rook.

The Grey-faced Rail is much rarer than the bird just described, and inhabits the forest exclusively, often at some distance from water-courses.

Several of the names of these Rails are significant ; thus the *Rallus gularis* is called, besides its names of *Tsikòza* and *Tsíka* (probably imitative of its creaking note), *Angòly*, doubtless identical with the same word which means "artifice, deceit, snare," and so refers to its tricks to escape capture. The same idea again comes in in one of the names of the Grey-faced Rail, *Otrika*, which means "an ambush," no doubt from its rapidly taking to cover when hunted. The Madagascar Rail is also called *Hèrikèry*, probably from a root meaning "to look around," "to look back." *Mènamàso*, "Red-eye," *Akòholàhindràno*, "Water-cock," *Iòron-ampómbó*, "Bran- (or Chaff-) bird," and *Fangàlatróvy*, "Yam-thief," are all noticeable native names of the birds of this family.

The two Purple Water-hens (*Porphyrio*) found in Madagascar inland waters are among the most beautiful of the birds inhabiting the island. Some of their native names, as *Hosétrika*, *Hoètrika*, &c., appear to contain a root meaning "to dip," "to plunge," and so refer to their constantly diving in the waters they frequent. (Or, possibly, these names may be from another root, meaning "to wander about.") Mr. W. Wilson says : "The Blue Water-hen has a very powerful beak, with which it can, with apparently very little trouble, root up the *Hèrana* rush, as it grows on the edge of Lake Itàsy in

water a foot and a half or more deep. It does this for the sake of the tender rootlets which are thus exposed, perhaps also for insects. If caught in a snare of stout string prepared from the fibre of one of the nettle-plants (*Agy*), it very speedily frees itself by breaking the snare."

The Crested Coot has for one of its native names that of *Otrika* (like that of the Grey-faced Rail just mentioned), doubtless from its immediately diving when alarmed.

Proceeding to the Scolopaciæ, or Snipe family, we find two species of Curlew in the island; one of them is the same as the Whimbrel of Europe, the other (if distinct from the European Curlew, which is sometimes doubted) is peculiar to Madagascar and rare. It lives almost always isolated among the other shore-birds, and frequents the sand-banks along the coasts. Its cry is very loud and quite distinct from that of the other and smaller species, and it is only rarely found in company with it.

The native names of these Curlews are obscure in meaning; one or two, however, as *Kèka* and *Kèkakèka*, are probably imitative of their plaintive cry. (The latter is also a name of one of the Snipes.)

The Cape Painted Snipe is common in the marshes, but is rarely seen, on account of its hiding in the long grass and aquatic vegetation, so that it is difficult to obtain without dogs. The flight of these birds is very rapid and in a zigzag fashion, but it alights every few moments*. They specially like to frequent, in little companies of from four to six birds, the places where cattle resort, for they find abundant food in the deep footprints made by the oxen in the muddy soil of the marshes where they pasture. The other Madagascar Snipe (Bernier's) is a peculiar species.

* Mr. Cory remarks on this statement (of M. Pollen's): "When shooting I have never found this bird's flight difficult or fast, not so difficult even as the large Malagasy Snipe, which is reckoned an easy shot by most men. In proof of this I may state that I have only seen four, and three I killed: the fourth I fired at when very tired and on a day when I had been shooting badly. I should say that for a Snipe it is particularly slow and even on the wing."

The Curlew Sandpiper is found in considerable numbers on the coast; but M. Pollen says that he has never observed it before October, or later than that month, so that he believes that this bird is not a permanent resident in Madagascar, but only rests here a few weeks in migrating to and from other regions.

The Sandpiper found in Madagascar appears to differ in no respect at all from the species spread so widely over the Old World, and is one of the most common shore-birds. It is almost always met with either singly or in couples, and is very easily recognized by the piercing cry which it constantly utters, moving its tail up and down, and running quickly along the shore in search of aquatic insects. The cock bird, in courting the female, has the habit of marching round and round her, trailing his wings on the ground, and bobbing his head up and down, while the hen bird remains motionless, observing the antics of her mate. Bishop Kestell-Cornish remarks: "It is curious to observe how these various [shore] birds seem to preserve their habits unchanged in whatever part of the globe they may be found. The Sandpiper is just the same confiding little creature in Madagascar as in England, differing from the birds that haunt our shores and the banks of our rivers only in greater variety of species. And the Curlew retains the same wild cry, and the same objection to finding himself within gun-range, as in England."

The Stilt-Plover found in Madagascar appears to resemble the European species. Its native names of *Tapàla* and *Tàkapàla* probably refer to its straddling and awkward gait.

Some other of the native names for this family may be here noticed. Thus, that of *Tòitòy*, given both to the Curlew and Common Sandpiper, is said to be an imitative one. The latter bird's habits, both on land and water, are noticed in its other names of *Fandiafásika*, "Sand-stepper," and *Saosao-dràno*, "Water-skimmer;" and it is also called *Manàboan-dràno*, "That-which-celebrates-the-day." It is known by still another name, viz. *Kìborànto*, probably meaning the "Far-running-Quail." The Curlew Sandpiper is also called *Kìboandràno*, "Water-Quail." The name of *Ràvaràva* given

to both the Snipes probably refers to their handsome markings; and perhaps *Féjo* (or *Féja*), a name of the Painted Snipe, has a similar meaning; while that of *Salàly* may come either from a root *làdy* (= *làly*), meaning "quick of hearing," or from an exactly similar one meaning "creeping," "skulking." Another name of Bernier's Snipe, *Vóronkàhaky*, is doubtless (at least the latter part of it) imitative of its cry, like *Kèka-kèka*, just noticed. I will not venture upon an explanation of *Kitànotàno*, the Ilova name of both the Madagascar Snipes*.

Seven species of the Plover family complete (excepting the peculiar *Mesitidæ*) the number of wading and shore-loving birds found in Madagascar. Four of the Plovers belong to one genus, *Ægialitis*, or Shore-Plover.

The Turnstone is very common on the shores, and is often seen in companies of from twelve to thirty individuals. Like the Curlews, it immediately warns all the other birds of any approaching danger; and probably its name of *Kitòry*, i. e. "Proclaimer" or "Accuser," refers to this habit.

Of Geoffroy's Plover, M. Pollen says that these birds come together in the evening, just at dusk, in considerable numbers to seek for food. They run excessively quickly, from which habit comes one of their names, *Kàborànto*, "Far-running Quail," and they fly along the surface of the water one after another. All four species of these birds are called *Vikiviky*, no doubt from a root identical in form, and meaning "to run," "to leap." Probably *Vèkovèko*, a name of the Pratincole, is of similar origin. Other names of these Plovers, as *Vòrombàto*, "Stone-bird," *Hitsikitsidràno*, "Water Kestrel," *Vòrondriaka*, "Ocean-bird," and *Vòronjà*, "Shore-bird" (or possibly "Roving-bird"), are all plain enough in their meaning and origin.

The last birds to be noticed in this Order are two species which, so far, can only be spoken of by their scientific name of *Mesite* (*Mesites*). These birds are considered by M. Grandidier to be sufficiently distinct from all the other Waders

* Is it from *tànotànona*, or an allied word, meaning "sitting unemployed," "resting idly"?

to be formed into a special family, Mesitidæ: he terms them "very curious and specialized birds, taking their place between the Rails and the Herons." He says further that, "according to the native accounts, when the nests of these Mesites, which are mostly placed in a low situation, are flooded, the parent birds drag them to where they will be free from injury by the water. If anyone takes their young they follow them into the village, and on account of this love for their offspring they are considered sacred (*fady*) by the Bêtsimisàraka, because, say the natives, they are in this respect like human beings." There are two species of this bird, the Variegated and the Uniform; the former of which is known by the odd name of *Ròatèlo*, lit. "Two-three," the reason for which is not at all clear.

VII.—THE HERONS.

The four families into which the Order of Herodiones or Herons is divided are all represented in Madagascar, and include three-and-twenty species belonging to the True Herons, the Storks, the Spoonbills and Ibises, and the Flamingoes. Of these birds more than half the number belong to one genus, the Herons (*Ardea*), which is thus the most numerously represented genus in the island, as will be seen by the tabulated List.

(1) As M. Grandidier observes, the coasts of Madagascar are particularly favourable for such birds as the Herons, especially the north-west and some other localities, where numerous estuaries are surrounded by trees. Some of the species, being regarded as sacred by the natives, are less shy than these birds are in Europe; while others, again, are very wary and most difficult to approach. In habits and feeding these Madagascar Herons are much like the European and African species, mostly living on fishes, mollusks, and crustacea, the larger ones devouring reptiles and small birds and mammals, while the smaller kinds are insectivorous. They are often found in companies, including several different species, settled on the trees overhanging or near water, and remaining perfectly motionless for a long time. Some of the

Hérons appear to be very abundant, such as the Common, the Black-necked, the Purple, the White-winged, the Little Egret, and some other species, especially the Buff-backed Heron. Others, on the contrary, as the Dwarf Heron, the Night-Heron, and Ida's Egret, seem very rare.

The most common of the Herons, as well as perhaps the most noticeable bird one sees when travelling in any part of Madagascar, is the Buff-backed Heron (*Vòrompòtsy*, i. e. "White-bird"). Wherever herds of cattle are feeding, there it will be seen in numbers proportionate to those of the oxen. "These animals it follows to feed upon the larvæ of insects which infest their skin and torment them unceasingly. One may often see these Egrets perched on the back of the oxen, and thus clearing them from their tormentors, which sometimes become as large as a plum, and even occasionally produce such exhaustion that the animals die from the effects. For the natives, with their usual inertness, would never think of taking any trouble themselves to free their cattle from these pests. It is, therefore, not surprising that such useful birds as the *Vòrompòtsy* are highly valued by the Malagasy, and are almost venerated as agents of their god *Zànahàry*; so that they cannot see one of them shot by foreigners without much displeasure, and they would think it a kind of sacrilege were they themselves to chase or injure them *. These Egrets are very fearless of man, allowing any one to approach them pretty near, and only leaving the cattle towards evening, when they repair to any piece of water near them to bathe. At sunset they roost in the trees of the neighbouring woods, leaving these again at daybreak

* Mr. Cory, commenting on M. Pollen's description here quoted, says: "Some tribes eat these birds, and always desire one to shoot them for them." And Mr. W. Wilson remarks: "I hardly think that the Egrets can be 'highly valued' as tick destroyers, since what they do is a mere nothing. They remove the white tick, which is harmless and not feared at all by the natives; but no animal will stand even for its own care-taker to remove the flat tick, let alone the Egret with its very sharply-pointed beak." M. Pollen's account is, however, so circumstantial that possibly the birds of the N.W. coast find different insect food from that which these Egrets live upon in the interior.

to return to the herds. One may often see flocks of five hundred of these birds gathering together at evening before settling on the trees in the outskirts of the forests."

When living close to the "Thursday" market at Ambòhimànga some years ago, we frequently noticed that a large flock of these Egrets, to the number of three to four hundred, used to gather together at sunset on a spacious *tanèty* or large open space opposite our house. After a few minutes' rest one of the birds rose, apparently giving the signal, and was immediately followed by the whole flock, which then flew away northward, with rather a slow heavy flight, and settled for the night on the trees on the north-west side of the Ambòhimànga hill, where they would be sheltered from the cold south-east wind. In this position they were very conspicuous for a considerable distance, forming a large white mass on the trees. The birds appeared to come from the marshes about Anósinandriana to the west, where they probably found aquatic food, and so do not always attend on the cattle. It was only during the winter months that they came to Ambòhimànga; in the warm season they remained in the open country.

Besides its very widely-spread name of Vòrompòtsy, this Egret has a number of provincial names, some of which refer to its cattle-loving habits, as *Vòronaomby*, "Ox-bird," and *Langòroaomby*, "Ox-Heron"; others to its colour, as *Vòron-kòtsy*, and perhaps *Sikòtry*, variations of the Hova form; one is *Kitàndry*, "the Watchman"; and another, *Kiràka*, probably meaning "to go after something in a crowd."

As its name implies, this Egret is of an extremely pure white colour, but the small plume at the back of the head is tinged with pale yellow. This crest, as well as the long feathers, are often used as ornaments by the Malagasy. Their purity of plumage is referred to in one of the proverbs: "Clean clothing, like the Vòrompòtsy, but he gets his living by picking up scraps." Its mounting on the back of the oxen is referred to in another proverb: "Don't seek to be 'number one,' like a Vòrompòtsy." And again, its sharp-eyed vigilance is noticed in another, which says: "A Vòrom-

pòtsy perched on a crooked branch: I spy him, but he keeps his eye on me."

As for the native names of the other Herons, almost all are known by the generic name of *Vàno*, either in its simple form or compounded with other words. This word *Vàno* seems to be from a Malayan and Javan word, *bango*, a heron, but what is its original meaning is unknown. Another widely-spread provincial name for these birds is *Langòro* or *Dangòro*, also often found in a compound form. Thus we have *Vàndanitra*, "Sky-Heron"; *Vànobè* and *Langòrobè*, "Great-Heron"; *Vànomainty* and *Dangòromainty*, "Black-Heron"; and *Vànafòtsy* and *Langòrofòtsy*, "White-Heron." And so again: *Langòrovalàfa*, "Palm-Heron"; *Dangòrovoàna*, "Insect-Heron"; and *Fòtsilàtra*, "White-wings." The bird known by this last name has also the queer name of *Fangàlimótivòay*, which may be translated "Crocodiles' eye-cleaner;" so that this bird probably is one of those that do the same kind offices for the crocodiles that the *Vòrompòtsy* does for the oxen. Again, the Squacco Heron is called *Fiàndrivòditàtatra*, i.e. "Waiter-at-the-foot-of-the-furrows"; while another is called *Vòrompàtsa*, "Shrimp-bird;" and another, *Vóronòsy*, "Marsh-bird" or Goat-bird."

(2) The family of the Storks contains in Madagascar three species, one of them peculiar to the island. The most well-known bird of this family is the *Tùkatra* or Tufted Umbre, a brown long-legged Stork, frequently seen in the marshes and rice-fields of Imèrina, as well as in other parts of the country. This bird builds an extraordinarily large nest, which is visible at a considerable distance. It is placed either on the fork of a large tree, or, perhaps more frequently, on the very edge of overhanging rocks, and is composed of sticks and plastered inside with a thick lining of mud. It is from 4½ to 6 feet in diameter, dome-shaped, with a lateral entrance, and is divided into three chambers, in one of which its two large eggs are laid. The entrance is by a narrow tunnel on a level with the bottom, and is always placed in such a position as to be difficult of access, though the nest itself may be quite easy to approach. Probably

from this conspicuous nest, as well as from the grave and sedate way in which the Tàkatra marches about seeking for its food, many native superstitious have gathered about the bird, one of which is that those who destroy its nest will become lepers. And while the Hova and central tribes were still idolaters it was believed that it was very unlucky should a Tàkatra fly across the path along which the idols were being carried; in such case they were immediately taken back to their dwelling-house. Another native superstition is, that if the Tàkatra takes the hair of any person from whose head it has just been cut, and uses it as material in building its nest, such person becomes at once bald.

A considerable number of native proverbs refer to the Tàkatra, some of which may be here translated. Thus, the plume or crest at the back of its head is mentioned in these: "Stooping down and showing the crest, like a Tàkatra stalking after a frog;" "Hair in a large knot, like the Tàkatra's plume." Its habits are noticed in the following: "Going along the stream, like the Tàkatra;" and, "A Tàkatra by the waterside: not sleeping, but in deep thought;" and its nest in these: "The Tàkatra finished a nest, so the Owl gave himself airs;" and, "A Tàkatra's nest entered by an Owl; the stingy one is injured by the evil one." There is a pun, or at least a play of words, in these two: "*Izay tàkatry ny aina, hoy ilay namahan-Tàkatra*," i. e. "Doing one's utmost (*tàkatra*), said the one who was entertained by a Tàkatra;" and, "*Toy ny alahelon-Tàkatra: raha faly, miara-MITOKAKA; raha ory, miara-MITOKIKY*," i. e. "Like the Tàkatra's sympathy: when you are glad, he laughs with you; when you are sorrowful, he shrinks back with you;" that is, I suppose, that it is all the same to him whatever befalls you, for his note never alters.

Besides the Tàkatra, there is the Open-billed Stork (*Anastomus madagascariensis*), which, according to M. Pollen, is almost always found together with some of the Ibises and other shore-birds. They live in companies of from six to twelve individuals, at river-mouths, feeding on crustacea and mollusks, from which habit comes their name of *Famàkiakóra*,

Tabular List of Madagascarian Birds.

(TABLE V.)

English Name.	Scientific Name.	Hova or General Name.	Provincial Malagasy Names.
White-necked Jacana	<i>Parva albinucha</i> ?		Vovotsaramainty (T., N.B.), Simadekhitaina (N.S.), To- lobatano (Tangasy).
African Jacana	<i>Parva africana</i>		Tsimavavilinaava (N.B., Antk.).
Family PERIDIAE. (JACANAE.)			
African Rail	<i>Rallus gularis</i> .	Trika.	Tsikôza (in all the dialects). Angôly (S.Co.). Hihy (T., Tm.), Tsikôza (N.S., N.B.), Mitimotamo (Sik.).
Madagascarian Rail	<i>Rallus MADAGASCARIENSIS</i> .		Alkoholalindano (B., T.). Mangamanditra (B.), Voron- ampombo (T.), Kuisia (N.B.).
Grey-faced Rail	<i>Canardus GRISCEPTRONS</i>	(Trika. Menamiso (B., N.B.).	Bira (Ba.). Hohiky, Hestrika (N.B.), Aretaka (N.S.).
Dwarf Crane	<i>Porzana pygmaea</i> .		
Waters' Crane	<i>Porzana WATERSI</i> .		
Island Crane	<i>Porzana INSULARIS</i> .	Fangalatrôvy.	
Madagascarian Water-hen	<i>Callinula chloropus MADAGAS-</i> <i>CARIA.</i>		
Blue-backed Porphyrion	<i>Porphyrio smaragdinus</i> .	Takera, and so in all the dia- lects.	Hosetraka, Talevakeky (N.B.). (Trika (T.), Tsoha (S.).
Crested Coot	<i>Porphyrio alleni</i> . <i>Fulica cristata</i> .	Vantsima.	

Madagascar Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i> MADAGAS- CARIENSIS.	Kitànòtànò.	Móntaváza (N.S., N.B.), Kékakéka (Bs.), Kéha (I.), Móntavázabé (N.S.), Mòn- taváza (N.B.).
Cape Painted Snipe	<i>Rhynchaea capensis.</i>	.....	Ràvaráva (T., Tm.), Féjo, Sa- laly (N.S.), Ràviràvy (N.B.).
Bernier's Snipe	<i>Gallinago</i> BERNIERI.	Kitàn-tànò.	Kékakéka (B.S.), Ràvaráva (B.), Vòronkàhaky (T.).
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Tringa subarquata.</i>	.....	Tòitòy (N.S., N.B.), Kiboa- dràno (S.).
Common Sandpiper	<i>Tringoides hypoleucus.</i>	Fandiafásika (Bs.).	Saosaodràno (Bs.), Manàbo- andràno (T.), Tòitòy (N.S.), Kiborànto (N.B.).
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica.</i>	.....	.....
Black-winged Stilt-Plover	<i>Himantopus credidius.</i>	.....	.....
Common Avocet	<i>Recurvirostris americana.</i>	.....	Taqàla, Takapàla (S., S.W. Co.)
Family CHARADRIIDÆ. (PLOVERS.)			
Turnstone	<i>Streptopus interpres.</i>	.....	Kitòry (N.S.).
Geoffroy's Plover	<i>Agialitis geoffroyi.</i>	.....	Vikiviky (N.B., Antk.).
Delicate Plover	<i>Agialitis TENELLA.</i>	.....	Kiborànto (N.B.), Vikiviky (Antk.).
Three-collared Plover	<i>Agialitis tricoloris.</i>	.....	Vikiviky (N.B., Antk.), Vòrom- bàto (Prov.).
Cattle-loving Plover	<i>Agialitis pecuaria.</i>	.....	Vikiviky (N.B.), Kiborànto (Prov.).
Grey Plover	<i>Squatarola holotian.</i>	.....	Vòrombàka, Vòromfia (S. Co.).
Madagascar Pratincole	<i>Gareola OULARIS.</i>	.....	Hitsikitsidràno (Bs., Ba.), Vò- kovèko (N.B.).
Family MESITIDÆ. (MESITES.)			
Variegated Mesite	MESITES VARIEGATA.	.....	Ròatèlo (Bm.).
Uniform Mesite	MESITES UNICOLOR.	.....	.....

* As in the first part of this paper (Ibis, 1891, p. 202), the names in small capitals show the genera and species of birds peculiar to Madagascar. The initials and contracted words in the last column are substitutes for the names of the different Malagasy tribes: see Ibis, 1891, p. 203.

(TABLE V., continued.)

English Name.	Scientific Name.	Hova or General Name.	Provincial Malagasy Names.
Common Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea.</i>		
Black-necked Heron	<i>Ardea atricollis.</i>		
Humblot's Heron	<i>Ardea humbloti.</i>		
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea.</i>		
Giant Heron	<i>Ardea goliath.</i>	Vanobé. Vanofotsy. Vano. Fotselatra.	Vandaniitra (<i>Bm.</i>), Langôrovovôanga (<i>Bs.</i>), Dangôro (<i>T.</i>), Langôrovafafa, Langôrobo (<i>N.S.</i>), Langôrofotsy. Dangôrofotsy, in most dialects. Dangôromainty (<i>Bs.</i> , <i>T.</i>), Fam- galimotivôay (<i>N.S.</i>).
Great White Heron	<i>Ardea alba.</i>		Silkôtry (<i>Ba.</i>), Kirihaka (<i>T.</i>), Langôroamby (<i>N.S.</i>), Vô- ronôsy, Vônôamby (<i>N.B.</i>), Vônôbôtsy (<i>Tm.</i>), Vônô- gôntsý, Kirihady (<i>Tro.</i>), Tinômaritô, (ôadranô (<i>N.S.</i>), Andêvovôronkôsy (<i>Tand.</i>).
Little Egret	<i>Ardea garzetta.</i>		
White-winged Heron	<i>Ardea gularis.</i>		
Slaty Heron	<i>Ardea ardesiaca.</i>		
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardea ralloides.</i>		
Buff-backed Heron	<i>Ardea bubulcus.</i>	Vônômpôtsy (<i>Bs.</i> , <i>T.</i>), Fianôrivôditatatra.	
Ida's Egret	<i>Ardea idæ.</i>		
Dwarf Heron	<i>Ardea podiceps.</i>	Vônômitina.	

Black-capped Heron	<i>Butorides atricapillus.</i>	.....	Vangamainty (N.S.), Vano- mainty, Goadrànokély (S.), Tambàkorátsy, Vòrompàtsa (Bm.).
European Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax griseus.</i>	.....	Goadràno (Prov.).

Family CICONIIDÆ. (STORKS.)

Tufted Umbre	<i>Scopus umbretta.</i>	Tàkatra, and so in all the dia- lects.	Tàkahàka (So.).
Madagascar Open-billed Stork .	<i>Anastomus MADAGASCARIENSIS</i>	.....	Falàmàkavàva (I.), Famàki- akóra, Mizóa (N.S.).
African Tantalus	<i>Pseudotantalus ibis.</i>	.....	Mèfo.

Family PLATALEIDÆ. (SPOONBILLS and IBISES.)

Slender-billed Spoonbill	<i>Platalea tenuirostris.</i>	Sòtrovava (Bs.).	Sòtrosòny (So.), Fangàdian- bàva (Bm.), Vòrondioko (S.B.).
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus.</i>	Manàrana (Tm.).	Kòbabèò (S.), Manàranòsy (S. W.Co.), Fitosívy (Bm.).
Bernier's Ibis	<i>Ibis BERNIERI.</i>	.....	Fitilibèngy (N.S.), Vòronòsy (S.S.), Manàrasóifòtsy (Ta- nòsy).
Crested Ibis	LOPHOTIBIS CRISTATA.	Akòhonàla, and so also in al- most all the dialects.	Akòholàbinàla (Ba.), Akòho- vòhitse, Tsikòko, Lampiro (N.B.).

Family PHENICOPTERIDÆ. (FLAMINGOES.)

Scarlet Flamingo.....	<i>Phenicopterus erythraeus.</i>	Sàmabè.	Saimby, Sàmaka (Prov.).
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or "Shell-breaker." This Stork is not confined to the seashores, but is also found in the neighbourhood of the inland lake of Alaotra in Antsihánaka. The peculiar bill of these Storks is also referred to in another of their names, *Falàmà-kavàva*. As for the meaning of the name of the Tàkatra, it is probably identical with the root *tàkatra*, "reached," "attained to," and so refers to its stretching out its neck and legs in searching for food.

(3) One species of Spoonbill is included in the Malagasy list. Its native names of *Sòtrovàva* and *Sòtrosòny* have the same meaning as its English name; while another name, *Fangàdiambàva*, means "Spade-mouthed."

Three species of Ibis are among the shore-birds of this island, one of them of a peculiar genus, *Lophotibis*, of which M. Grandidier says that its very different proportions separate it most distinctly from the very homogeneous group of the true Ibises." This bird is chestnut-brown in colour; the Glossy Ibis is dark brown; the Bernier's Ibis is white, with black head and points of wings and tail. Of the first of these birds, M. Pollen says that it generally goes in couples, runs exceedingly fast, flies very rapidly, and perches at evening on the trees, where it utters during the night loud cries resembling those of the Owls. Immediately this Ibis perceives any danger it begins to run, raising at every instant its crest in the same fashion as do our Lapwings, so that it is very difficult to kill it. It is often kept by the natives in their compounds together with their poultry.

The native names of these birds must be briefly noticed. In several of them words meaning "goat" appear, as *Manàranòsy*, "Goat-Ibis," *Fitìlibèngy*, "Goat-watchman," and *Ivòronòsy*, "Goat-bird." The Glossy Ibis has the odd name of *Fitosívy*, lit. "Seven-nine"; and the Crested Ibis is called *Akóholàhinála*, "Forest-cock," and *Akòhovòhitse*, "Village-fowl." Other names, as *Lampìro*, *Mèfo*, and *Kòbabèò*, are obscure. The word *Manàrana* seems to be used as a generic name for these Ibises; but whether it is the same word as the verb *manàrana*, meaning "to indulge," "to gratify,"

“to satiate,” &c., I cannot say. This word is also used in a general way for the Cormorants as well.

(4) The last bird to be noticed in this Order of Herons is a species of Flamingo. This bird, according to M. Grandidier, is not very rare on the west coast, although it is so more to the north and the east. Mr. Cory also says: “This bird is found in Imèrina, particularly at Lake Itàsy, where I have often seen it. The flesh is extremely good eating. I have never tasted any meat—fish, flesh, or fowl—to equal it.” Its native name of *Sàmaka* is particularly appropriate and descriptive, for it means “disunited,” “split,” referring to its immensely long legs. Its other name of *Sàma*, or *Sàmabè*, means “Large-mouthed.”

Mr. W. Wilson remarks as to the Flamingo: “The *Sàmabè* or *Anjòmbona* (so called from its trumpeting cry, *anjòmbona* being the native name for a large species of *Triton*-shell used as a trumpet) is, as seen in Mandrairano, an exceedingly handsome bird; it has a white body with a most delicate pink tinge pervading the whole of the underpart of the wings. In the adult male bird there is a row of small feathers on the wings of a distinct magenta colour. The neck towards the head has a similar but paler colouring.

“An adult male bird I had in my possession stood quite 4 feet high, and even then was not by any means stretched to its full height. They are much larger than any Heron I have seen. When on the defensive, these birds make quite a loud noise by sharply closing and opening their beaks, which are long and powerful. A blow from them would inflict a terrible wound. I have never seen more than nine birds together at or near Itàsy. When on the wing they fly exceedingly high.”

[To be continued.]